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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PUBLIC LANDS DAY EVENT THIS SATURDAY**

**GLENDIVE** – The public is invited to this year’s National Public Lands Day (NPLD) to be held at the Glendive Short Pine Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) area on Saturday, May 22.

The Glendive Short Pine OHV area is located six miles south of Glendive on the old Marsh Road otherwise known as County Road #335.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office is hosting this year’s national event and would like to encourage anyone interested to “Lend a hand to America’s Public Lands” and become a part of the largest volunteer hands-on effort of its kind in the nation.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. starting with a safety briefing and site orientation. Volunteer projects will include litter pickup, installing erosion control barriers, an entrance sign and a kiosk for general information. This year’s event will be hosted in May in order to provide upgrades to Short Pine facilities ahead of the recreation season. Previous NPLD events have been held in September.

The OHV area consists of 2,240 acres of federal land which is accessed by a public road and provides a variety of off-road driving opportunities. Recreational shooting, invertebrate fossil collecting, hiking and camping are a few of the diverse activities enjoyed by visitors to the Short Pine area.

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The event is open to volunteers of all ages and groups of all interests. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch. There will be gloves and tools for volunteers to use, however participants can bring their own if they prefer.

Generally held in September each year, NPLD events bring together thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to refurbish and restore the country's public places.

NPLD has grown dramatically since it was first started in 1994. The first event was sponsored by three federal agencies and attracted 700 volunteers to three sites.

Last year, nearly 80,000 volunteers pitched in nation-wide to build trails and bridges, restore wetlands, remove invasive plants as well as other numerous projects. Volunteers worked at 550 sites in all 50 states. It is estimated that volunteers and their community partners contributed \$10 million in improvements to their federal, state and local public lands.

These are the lands and facilities Americans use for outdoor recreation, education and just plain enjoyment. They encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes and reservoirs managed by government agencies, but belonging to and enjoyed by everyone.

According to the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, the 2003 NPLD nation-wide volunteer work force accomplished the following:

- Built or maintained 500 miles of trails
- Built over 60 bridges and 100 other structures
- Planted over 15,200 plants and over 6,600 trees
- Bagged nearly 2 million pounds of trash
- Cleared nearly 60,000 pounds of invasive plants

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NPLD is a partner in the Take Pride in America initiative to mobilize volunteers to address federal, state and local resource and recreation needs. Take Pride is committed to promoting awareness about citizen stewardship and increasing volunteer opportunities for the public. For more information, visit: [www.takepride.gov](http://www.takepride.gov).

If you have questions about the event or would like to get involved, contact BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Ladd Coates at (406) 233-2811 or BLM Public Affairs Specialist Mark E. Jacobsen at (406)233-2831.

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